

76-3743

13 DEC 1976

DD/A Registry
76-6231

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : F. W. M. Janney
Director of Personnel

VIA : Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Survey of Interest in Facilities for Physical
Conditioning, Recreational and Social Activities

John E. Blake
17 DEC 1976

1. This memorandum is for your information.
2. A survey questionnaire was forwarded with Employee Bulletin 544, dated 27 October 1976, asking for the opinions of all Headquarters employees on a number of questions related to the providing of facilities for physical conditioning, recreational and social activities. A copy of that survey, including notations of the responses, is attached. A total of 3,095 questionnaires were returned, representing a 30% response. While not eliciting complete data on which to plan an ideal complex, the survey did provide some insight into what Agency employees would like to have, the extent to which they feel their employer should provide physical conditioning and recreational facilities, and their willingness to contribute funds for such facilities.
3. The first question on the survey asked the employee's opinion regarding the need for a multi-purpose activities center and what impact it would have on employee morale. Approximately 30% of the respondents indicated this was urgently needed and would greatly contribute to morale. Conversely, 10% felt this to be unnecessary and not an influence on employee morale. Over half of those who participated in the survey indicated moderate interest in an Agency multi-purpose center.
4. Question 2 attempted to determine employees' opinions on who should be permitted to use the facility. Approximately one out of four prefer use to be restricted to Agency employees. An equal number want to be able to bring in outside guests. Half of the responses indicated a preference for restricting admittance to Agency personnel and members of their immediate families.
5. Questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 were to determine how frequently, by whom, and at what time the center would be used. Most significant of the information gained from these questions was the fact that:
 - a. Almost half indicated they would utilize the facility frequently and an additional one-third said they would use it occasionally.
 - b. Approximately one out of four responded that family participation was not applicable to them.
 - c. The greatest expected use would be on weekends.

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6. An attempt was made in question 7 to determine the types of facilities desired. Choices were: indoor athletic, outdoor athletic, social (meeting and party rooms), and dining facilities. More than one preference could be marked. Indoor athletics was the overwhelming favorite with 2,415 votes. Outdoor athletics was second with about half as many votes. The remaining choices received significantly less responses. This question also asked for a write-in of preferred locations. This produced insignificant response except for over 100 employees who indicated Rosslyn.

7. Question 8 listed several possible activities that might be included in a multi-purpose center and asked for first, second and third preference to be indicated. The attached copy of the survey shows a tabulation of first, second and third place votes and a ranking based on the number of "first preference" votes. Indoor swimming, tennis, and bowling were most popular in that order. A surprisingly low eighth and twelfth places went to softball and football, two of EAA's most popular activities.

8. Questions 9, 10 and 11 attempted to elicit to what extent employees would be willing to support financially Agency athletic and recreational facilities. As a number of volunteered comments pointed out, it is difficult for one to state how much he or she will pay for use of a facility when the facility is not fully defined. It was considered essential, however, to obtain some expression from employees as to what extent they expected to share in the cost of the facilities. Regarding use of the facilities such as tennis courts, bowling alleys and swimming, employees were almost equally divided (approximately one out of three) on general membership dues only versus a combination "use fee" and "general dues." One out of four employees favored only the "fee per individual use" concept. Questions 10 and 11 addressed the attitude toward possible purchase of shares and annual dues. Very few employees indicated an interest in investing more than \$100 in either.

9. Item 12 on the survey asked for any comments or suggestions the employee wished to make. One out of three chose to do so. As might be expected, comments ran the gamut from "a great idea" and "should be like Pentagon facilities" to "a dumb idea" and "a waste of time and money." Some comments fell in between these extremes, indicating this was a nice idea but doubtful that it will ever come to pass. The question of who should be permitted use of the facilities drew many comments from those who are under cover. In strong terms they indicated outside participation would prevent their use. Of the constructive comments, two were most dominant - improve the exercise facilities already in existence in the Headquarters Building and provide exercise facilities in Rosslyn (and to a lesser extent in other buildings). Some who commented just wanted to point out the benefits (to the Agency as well as themselves) of exercise programs. Conversely, there were others who felt that the Government is being cheated out of an eight-hour day and employees should do their exercising (and recreating) on their

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP85-00375R000400110015-1

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own time. Many wished to give a plug for their favorite sport by singling out tennis courts, or handball, or an indoor pool, or new softball fields, as a must. Those commenting against the proposal, although not a majority, were substantial and presented one or more of four arguments against increasing recreational facilities. Most prominent was the opinion that this is not the Agency's responsibility and would be an improper use of the taxpayer's money. Second was a strong concern that this would result in bad publicity for the Agency at a time when it can least afford it. Third was the idea that the providing of facilities would foster paternalism, clannishness, and inbreeding when more community participation by employees should be stressed. Fourth was the concern on the part of some that their work environment (office space) was already substandard and the providing of recreational facilities should be secondary to improving this situation.

10. In summary, the degree of employee interest expressed in the survey would not appear to provide overwhelming support for a recreational building. The survey does, however, indicate the strong interest that many employees have in fitness, exercise, and athletic activities and the desire to engage in these activities at their work location. There was also a frequent expression of opinion that the existing facilities should be improved and expanded and additional facilities should be made available to employees working in other than the Headquarters Building. It is therefore our intention to:

a. make the results of this survey available to the Board of Directors of the Employee Activity Association for their consideration in connection with EAA budget planning and future activities, and

b. present the results of the survey to the Deputy Director for Administration after which we will initiate discussions with him and appropriate personnel of his office regarding improvement of present exercise and athletic facilities, availability of space for exercise facilities in other buildings (especially Rosslyn), and inclusion of recreational activities in the planning of new buildings.

(Signed) F. W. M. Janney

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(14 Dec 76)